

United Friends empowers people with developmental disabilities to enjoy quality lives and experience the best of home, health, family and community.



United Friends Group Homes



SPECIAL EDITION

We have so much exciting news, we can't wait to tell you!

Fall
2011 Edition

New Executive-Director

After an extensive and thorough search, the Board Search Committee identified Denise Lalande-Phipps as the recommended next Executive-Director. We had many very strong, well qualified candidates and felt fortunate to have so many enthusiastic and talented people interested in our organization. The Board, at a special meeting on August 30th, voted unanimously to engage Denise. She started work Sept. 6th. Denise comes with extensive experience in the DD field and an enthusiasm for small, local nonprofits.

We have been fortunate to have Debra Haraldson serve as our Interim Executive-Director. She stepped into the position with dedication and energy, helping us not only to keep the agency running efficiently, but also helping identify several areas in which we could strengthen our program and services. She has continued to serve part-time to orient Denise to the position. We say a big “thank you” to Debra and a warm “welcome” to Denise.

Meet Denise A. Lalande-Phipps

Denise was born and raised in San Francisco, California and graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelors degree in Psychology and a minor in Ethnic Studies. There she studied Developmental Psychology and Pan African/ Latino cultures through dance, art and literature. After graduating, Denise headed off to the East Coast, settling in Manhattan (and later in Brooklyn) where she began her career working with adults with disabilities as a Residential Case Manager Supervisor for a nationally known agency based in New York, Young Adult Institute (Y.A.I.).

While working for Y.A.I., Denise had the pleasure of working with a diverse DD community of young adults, adults and seniors with a variety of disabilities. After integrating herself into her work, Denise decided to get a Masters in Social Work from Hunter College of Social Work focusing on developmental and psychiatric disabilities. In addition, she studied Social Work Administration. A short time later, she received her license (LMSW). During this time, she worked as a part time therapist working with children, couples, and adults with psychiatric conditions. The opportunity to oversee two adult day programs for people with disabilities was offered and a new career with Federation Guidance Services (FEGS) began. The large day program served over 100 individuals with a wide variety of disabilities, including specialty areas such as those with hearing impairments and those with a diagnosis of Autism.

Denise met her husband, Clinton Phipps in New York, while playing chess in the, “Village” and was later married in 2005. July 2007, they became the proud and exhausted parents of twins, a boy and a girl, Nia and Zuri, who are now 4 years old. After visiting, her parents last year in Seattle, Denise decided to move her family in August to the Pacific Northwest to enjoy the year round good weather and experience Washington’s beauty and fun activities. With 12 years of experience working with the DD population, Denise wanted to continue to develop her career in residential services and looked to United Friends for that guidance.

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Fundraising alert!!! Entertainment Books Now Available

United Friends is once again selling Entertainment Books as a fund raising project. The books sell for \$25.00 each. The more we sell the more funds we raise.

We want to finalize the sales by October 25th. Contact Earleen at 206-225-4245 to place an order.

We can sell books for other areas and states so be sure to contact all your friends and families that might be interested in this money saving book. They make great gifts too!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY--SAVE THE DATE

Plans are underway for our annual Christmas party on December 17, 2011. It will again include a noon meal and a program presented by Friendship Theater.

Plan to join us for a great time!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held this year on Tues., Oct. 25, at 3:00 pm.

It will be at the Greenwood Public Library, 8016 Greenwood Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear of our accomplishments, make new acquaintances, meet old friends, and support our organization.

You are automatically a member if you are a:

- Guardian of a United Friends residents,
- Non-guardian parent of a resident,
- Current or past member of the Board of Directors,
- Or, current member of standing committee.

Stop by to say hello to our new Executive Director, Denise Lalande-Phipps

Siblings, friends and family are welcome as well,

PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.

